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HAITI: BAZIN FACES SHOWDOWN WITH MILITARY

FOUR CABINET MEMBERS CLOSELY TIED TO DE FACTO PRIME MINISTER BAZIN'S OPPONENTS IN THE MILITARY PUBLICLY DEFIED BAZIN'S ORDER TO RESIGN YESTERDAY, AND THE CONFRONTATION WITH THE ARMED FORCES COULD FORCE BAZIN TO STEP DOWN. BAZIN WILL RESIGN TODAY IF HE FAILS TO PERSUADE ARMY CHIEF CEDRAS AND OTHER MILITARY LEADERS TO ENFORCE THE DISMISSALS. CEDRAS HAS STRONGLY OPPOSED THE CABINET CHANGES, AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL STAFF HAVE THREATENED TO KILL ANY NEW APPOINTEES WHO ACCEPT THEIR POSTS.

COMMENT: CEDRAS APPEARS READY TO MOVE AGAINST BAZIN AND TO INSTALL A CONSTITUTIONALLY BASED PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TO SPONSOR AN ELECTION. BAZIN'S CHIEF BACKER, POLICE CHIEF FRANCOIS, PROBABLY WILL NOT OPENLY CHALLENGE CEDRAS. THE ARMY CHIEF APPARENTLY INCREASINGLY SHARES THE DESIRE OF AMBITIOUS RIGHTISTS TO RESOLVE THE PROLONGED POLITICAL CRISIS AND TO PREVENT OUSTED PRESIDENT ARISTIDE'S RETURN. HE MAY EVEN HOPE THAT THE OAS WILL LIFT ITS EMBARGO AFTER AN ELECTION.

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8 June 93

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